

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

March 22, 2000

In reply refer to: KECN-4

To: People Interested in the Kangley – Echo Lake Transmission Project

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to build a new transmission line that could affect you. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our process and schedule, and invites you to a meeting where you can learn more.

Proposal

BPA is proposing to construct a transmission line in central King County, Washington. The new 500-kilovolt (kV) line would connect an existing transmission line (near the community of Kangley) with our existing Echo Lake Substation, a distance of about nine miles.

Three alternative locations are being considered. All are east of our existing 500-kV line that runs between the Raver and Echo Lake Substations. (Please see attached map.) Each of the alternatives crosses the west side of the Cedar River Municipal Watershed.

- Option 1 would tie into the existing east-west line about a half-mile west of Kangley. The new line would parallel the existing north-south right-of-way on the east side for about nine miles and connect into the Echo Lake Substation.
- Option 2 would tie into the existing east-west line about one mile east of Kangley. The new line would proceed at an angle to the northwest towards the existing north-south line. About three miles north of Kangley, the new line would turn north and parallel the existing line just like Option 1 and connect into the Echo Lake Substation.
- Option 3 would establish a new corridor for its entire distance. It would tie into the existing east-west line at the same place as Option 2 (about one mile east of Kangley). The new line would then proceed towards the northeast for about two miles. It would then parallel Pole Line Road to the east for about two miles. Then it would turn northwest and proceed about six miles to connect into the Echo Lake Substation.

Under each option we would need to acquire easements for new right-of-way and access roads.

Purpose

The major reason for this proposal is to improve system reliability in the King County area. Right now, an outage on the existing Raver-Echo Lake line could overload transformers in the Covington area during times of heavy use, such as a winter cold snap like the Arctic Express of 1989. An outage could then cause voltage instability and a loss of power in the King County area. Under normal growth in demand, system instability could develop as early as the winter of 2002/03.

An added benefit of this project would be to enhance the United States' delivery of power to Canada as required under the Columbia River Treaty of 1961.

Process/Schedule

We will soon start to assess the environmental impacts of proposed options. But before we do, we would like to hear from you. What other options do you think we should consider? What resources should we analyze? What questions do you have? We have scheduled an open house public meeting to hear your ideas.

**Tuesday, April 11, 2000
3 to 8 p.m.
Mt. Si Senior Center
411 Main Ave. South
North Bend, Washington**

We do not plan to give a formal presentation at the meeting. Several members of the project team will be available to answer your questions and to listen, so come anytime between 3 and 8 p.m. when it is convenient.

We will be contacting landowners soon asking for permission to enter their property to conduct the analysis.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available for review and comment next year. If you would like to receive a copy, please return the enclosed postcard and check whether you would like to receive it by regular or electronic mail. If you do not return the postcard, you will still receive notice when the study is available.

Once we have completed the environmental review, BPA will decide whether and how to proceed with the project. If BPA decides to proceed, construction would likely begin in 2002.

For More Information

If you have any questions about this proposal, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, or at my direct number, (503) 230-5525; or send an e-mail to lcdriessen@bpa.gov

If you have any comments about this proposal, call BPA's toll-free comment line at 1-800-622-4519, and leave a message, naming this project; or send an e-mail to: comment@bpa.gov

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/s/

Lou Driessen
Project Manager

2 Enclosures:
Map
Post card